

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 30, 2005. Claims 1, 3, 6 to 8, 14, 17 to 22, 24 to 26, 28 to 31 and 33 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 28 and 33 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the continued indication that Claim 16 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3, 6 to 12, 14, 17 to 22 and 24 to 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,668,996 (Randisky) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,515,756 (Mastie) and further in view of Admitted Prior Art (APA). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a computer implemented method for generating a device driver for an output device by an information processing apparatus, wherein said output device is connected to the information processing apparatus. The method includes the steps of: loading an application from a read-only memory, the application including a device model independent device driver; determining a model of the output device to which the application is intending to issue output commands; determining whether a device model dependent configuration data in a memory device matches the model of the output device, the memory device being a memory card connected to the information processing apparatus; upon determining that the device model dependent configuration data in the memory device matches the model of the output device, reading the device model dependent configuration data from the memory device; and generating the device

driver for the output device by configuring the device model independent device driver with the device model dependent configuration data.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 16 as if Claim 16 were rewritten into independent form as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, Claim 16 was dependent from Claim 1 and Claim 16 included the limitation that device model dependent configuration data is stored in a memory device and that the memory device is a memory card. This limitation has now been incorporated into Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 21 and 22 are directed to an apparatus and a computer program product, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 21 and 22 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claim 24 is directed to a method of providing forward compatibility of device driver code of an unchangeable application with a plurality of device models, wherein said application is stored in a read-only memory and not linked to other executable code. The method comprises including device model independent device driver code in the application; determining a model of an output device which the application is desired to issue commands to; reading model dependent configuration data for the model of the output device from a memory card; and generating a device driver for the model of the output device by configuring the device model independent device driver code with the model dependent configuration data.

Claim 24 is similar to Claim 1 and has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 16. Specifically, Claim 24 now features reading model dependent configuration data for a model of an output device from a memory card and generating a device driver for the model of

the output device by configuring a device model independent device driver code with the model dependent configuration data. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is also now in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons as Claim 1 and respectfully request same.

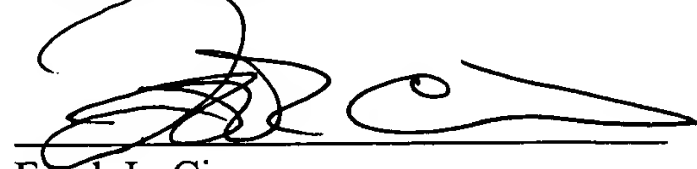
Amended independent Claims 28 and 33 are directed to an apparatus and a computer program product, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 28 and 33 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended all of the independent claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in order to advance the application to issuance as quickly as possible. Therefore, Applicants believe that the entire Application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If, upon review of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, the Examiner does not share Applicants' belief, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' representative as indicated below in order that any remaining matters may be addressed quickly.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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